

REMARKS

Claims 21-35 are pending in the application. Claims 1-20 are cancelled. New claims 21-35 are added. No new matter has been added. In view of the present remarks, reconsideration of the rejections set forth in the Office Action dated October 23, 2006, is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112. Claims 1-20 have has been cancelled thereby obviating the rejection under Section 112.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,930,173 to Banko in view of various other art. Applicant has cancelled claims 1-20 thereby obviating the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103.

NEW CLAIMS

Claims 21-35 have been added. Applicant respectfully submits that the new claims are patentable over the cited art including Banko. For example claim 1 recites a shank wherein the thickness of the shank in the proximal and distal portions is greater than the thickness of the shank in the intermediate portion. Banko fails to show or suggest such a feature.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of

Applicant : Hickok et al.
Serial No. : 10/715,228
Filed : November 17, 2003
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any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

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Respectfully submitted,



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Date: March 19, 2007

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